

19th century

Extracts

from the

School Log Book



Badsey
School

Extracts from the Log Book of Badsey Board School, October 1893 - December 31st 1899.

1893

- Oct 3rd. Mary E. Edgerlow - 2nd Class Certificate, Parchment -
Took charge of the above school on September 3rd, 1893.
Katherine Hasker -Ex P.T. (Ed. Pupil Teacher) appointed
Assistant Teacher.
Children somewhat unruly and the lower classes (especially
Standard I) (ed. 7 - 8 year olds and Infants) very backward.
Apparatus in a very dilapidated condition, and scarcely any
stationery.
Attendance gradually increasing (ed. Schools received a
grant from the local School Board in proportion to the
number of children in attendance).
Average Attendance Sept 3rd - 73
 " 15th.- 87.9
 " 22nd - 115
 " 29th - 131
 Number on register - 135
 Admitted 32 from September 4th. to 25th.
Notified to Clerk (ed. to the School Board) that an increase
of Staff was needed at once, but no answer received.
- Oct 5th. The Board held their meeting in the classroom this morning.
Elsie Cockerlow to stay on as Monitress for another month.
(ed. The Monitorial System involved the Teacher instructing
an intelligent child who then regurgitated the facts to a
group of other children. After having practised the method
of working many times, the children were then tested by the
Teacher.)
The Board decided to expel Walter C- his conduct being such
as to seriously interfere with the running of the school,
and also a bad example to the other children.
- Nov. 2nd. John F. Warmington being in a delicate state of health
has left until the Spring.
- Dec 1st. Needlework taken this morning, the afternoon being so dark.

Dec. 8th. The stove in the larger room needs attention. Some days the room is too cold to work in.

1894.

Jan. 19th. The work in this room very heavy, no help as yet being obtained. The needle work is getting very soiled, there being no cupboard or box in which to put it.

Jan. 29th. Alice Crisp (ex P.T.) commenced duties as Assistant Teacher. The Reading Room () has been filled as a temporary classroom for the Infants.

List of Object Lessons 1894-5

(ed. An Object lesson was exactly what it suggests. An object (see list below) was studied, in great detail, although not very scientifically and then the children would copy the teacher's notes from the blackboard. Object lessons did not carry a grant and so it was usually done by the Pupil Teacher or Monitor as it would not be inspected.

Object Lessons

Animals: Cow and Calf, Donkey, Goat, Mouse, Brown Bear, Fox, Frog, Sheep, Monkey.

Birds: Duck, Robin, Eagle, Owl, Hen and Chickens.

Trades: Carpenter, Glazier, Farmer, Sailor.

Miscellaneous: Boots and Shoes, A Letter, Autumn, Tea, A Knife, Matches, Sun, Moon and Stars, Bee, The Hand, Butterfly, Paper, Tails of Animals, A Snowstorm, Setting the Tea Table, Fruit.

Moral Lessons: Honesty, A Good Character, Obedience, Kindness, Industry.

Recitations: Standard IV and V - Blind Old Willow
(ed. 11 - 12 years)
Standard III - The Lighthouse
(ed. 10 year olds)
Standard II and I - The First Snowfall
(ed. 8 - 9 years)

1895.

Geography. Definitions I & II

England (Worcestershire specially) III

Great Britain IV & V

(ed. Geography often merely involved the rote learning of such subjects as the names of river, towns, capes, bays, etc. from maps).

June 22nd. Visited the Reading Room and found the heat most oppressive and the smell from the pigstyes very offensive.

Inspector's Report 1894

The school as a voluntary institution was closed by the Managers on May 1st (ed. 1894?). It was re-opened in September under the direction of a newly elected Board who have arranged with the previous Managers to occupy the present premises until new buildings can be erected. (ed. The "old" school apparently was situated somewhere near to the present British Legion Club).

Considering the special circumstances of the year the general efficiency of the school has been well maintained. the Recitation of the Lower Standards though well said is not understood. (ed. Recitation of poetry was an important examination piece upon which the school grant depended - therefore the need to comprehend what was being learnt came a poor second to getting the words correct).

The second grade of variable grant is recommended with much doubt and solely in consideration of the circumstances of the year.

1894.

Oct 15th. Staff John H. McDonald, Certified Teacher 1st Class.

Margaret Ann McDonald, Article 50.

Miss Crisp, Article 50 - 52 (Infants)

Fanny Bennett }
Martha Mustoe } Article 33

Oct 19th. Took charge of these schools on Monday (15th) and found the order very bad. In the Upper and Lower standards

- Oct. 19th. the elementary work is meagre. The children are clean
cont'd. and capable. (Ed. Whether the previous Head is sacked
or resigns is not stated in the Log books). (See
below - Inspector's Report).
- Punished two boys on Friday for lying and stealing.
- Nov. 2nd. I find that throughout the whole school the children
are much given to copying. Have taken steps to get
rid of this very objectionable practice.
- Nov. 16th. The weather this week was very bad and many of the
roads were impassable on account of the floods, hence
the attendance was poor, average for the week being 147.
- 1895.
- Jan 25th. F. Bennett (the P.T.) was absent from lessons on
Thursday suffering with face-ache.
- Mar. 8th. The stove in the classroom was very troublesome on
Monday, the smoke causing great discomfort to all the
school.
- April 5th. The attendance was not so good on Wednesday owing
to a football match being played at Aldington.
- April 26th. The upper children are away from school, being engaged
in asparagus cutting.

Recitation 1895-6

St. IV, V, VI.	Ode on the Death of Wellington	Tennyson
III	Twilight Calm	Rossetti
II	Death of the Old Year	Tennyson
I	Sands of Dee	Kingsley

Inspector's Report 1895

As the erection of the new schools is not completed, the
children still occupy the same cramped premises as last
The want of adequate space has especially interfered with
the work of the large lower standards.

In October the Mistress was replaced by an experienced
Master. He seems a capable and industrious Teacher,
under whose care speedy improvement may be expected in
condition of the school.

- May 31st. The attendance was rather lower on Wednesday, owing to Bretforton Wake.
- June 21st. There was no school on Friday, that day being set apart for the children's tea in connection with the opening of the new schools.
- The schools were opened at 3.30.p.m. by A. H. Savory, Esq., (Chairman of the Board) the several members of the Board and the Reverend E. G. Gepp being present.
- June 28th. Entered the new school this week. There has been a change in Staff. Mrs. Mason (formerly Mistress of Badsey National School) has been engaged for the Infants room. She will have the assistance of K. Mustoe (monitress). Miss Crisp has charge of Standard I. Miss McDonald, Standard II - III.
- The remainder will be under my own care assisted by F. Bennett (Monitress).
- The attendance has been good. The average being 176. (ed. The National School was a school founded by "The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, throughout England and Wales" which was created in 1811. By 1813 there were 230 such schools in the country).
- July 19th. Standard III and II are doing their "Hand and Eye" occupation very nicely and Standard I have made a good start.
- Aug. 16th. Tuesday was a very wet day and on Wednesday there was a temperance demonstration at Lvesham. The attendance on these two days was very poor.
- Aug 23rd. The numbers on Wednesday were very low, a great many children attending the Sunday School treat at Aldington.
- Aug 30th. Dismissed on Friday afternoon for the Harvest Holiday - school to re-open on September 30th.
- (At a time of limited farm mechanisation, the use of child labour in the fields at such important times as Harvest was considered essential).

- Oct. 4th. Friday being the Evesham Fair the attendance for that day was very poor - only 131.
(ed. There are some very interesting photographs in the Almonry Museum in Evesham of the Evesham Fair).
- Oct. 23rd. Visit (Article 21) (ed. Possibly a visit by a Health or Buildings Inspector).
The ventilation is not perfect. Apex ventilation would be best served by the introduction of Boyle's Exhausters or some other mechanical device for the removal of the heated, impure air, while there should be a larger supply of Sheringham's Valves or Tobin's Tubes.
(ed. The ventilation of Victorian schools seems to have been a continual problem. It was due to the rooms having very high ceilings where the stale air produced by less than adequately washed children would accumulate instead of passing through the very inefficient louvres or windows).
A lock must be at once affixed to the door between the playgrounds. (ed. Segregation of the sexes!).
I have noticed many cases of irregularity (of attendance) in the register which need legal action on the part of the Board.
- Nov. 8th. At noon the members (of the Board) came into the school to see the deficiencies in the building, the rain having made its way through in more than one place.
- Nov. 22nd. On Thursday had to punish a boy (H—) in Standard I for disrespect to his teacher (Miss Crisp).
- Nov. 29th. The attendance all week with the exception of Tuesday was good. On that day the attendance was lowered owing to a "Meet of Foxhounds" at Wickhamford.
- 1896
- April 10th. The school room being needed for an election of the "New Board", there was no school on that day.

Diocesan Inspector's Report

In Division III containing Standards III - II, I would suggest that the Biog : of Pentateuch (and not Genesis only) and 12 miracles and parables (6 of each) with a detailed acct. of our Lord's life, are requisite to make the amount of work equal to that prescribed in the syllabus.

I would congratulate Mr. McDonald, Mrs. Mason and the Assistants upon the general intelligence of their scholars and upon the good order which prevails in these magnificent school rooms.

E. J. Houghton.

- May 1st. Have commenced work for the year with the new standards. Very few children have been kept back.
(ed. The academic year ended on 30th April. Any children who did not pass the examinations set for their age group (standard) did not move on to the next standard. This sometimes resulted in children of very limited ability remaining with younger children for several years. Children aged thirteen or fourteen were sometimes to be found in Standard I with the eight year olds. Conversely very bright children could find themselves with children several years older - thus an eight year old could be found in Standard IV or V with twelve and Thirteen year olds).
- May 8th. Received the result of the Drawing Examination. The mark this year was "Excellent".
(ed. Drawing mentioned here was not picture-making, but rather more like technical drawing, showing neatness and accuracy in copying shapes, figures and still life objects).
- June 5th. Transferred some children from Standard II to Standard I on account of incapacity.

Report of Her Majesty's Inspector, 1896

The work on slates and paper is uniformly neat and in many cases accurate Praise is due for singing by note, musical drill and needle work. The children's behaviour is very satisfactory.

The Board has provided commodious and on the whole well fitted premises for the children's instruction, but there is a marked absence of arrangements for ventilation in the upper portions of every room, and this should be remedied.

Infants Class

Reading should be more expressive and the correct use of the initial "h" should have due attention.

July 3rd. At their usual meeting on Thursday (2nd. inst.) the Board decided that the Infants Class should henceforth be conducted as an Infants School.

Nov. 20th. Instead of the usual mapping on Friday, the upper classes did memory maps with good results.
Had to complain about the untidiness of some children from Wickhamford.

Dec. 18th. The afternoons were very dark. Have asked the Board to supply a few lamps.

1897.

Mar. 5th. (H.M.I.) wishes the Board to have the ventilation of the rooms attended to at once: also bells attached to the doors, he calls their attention to children leaving school before the age of fourteen without a Certificate of Proficiency or Attendance.

Apl. 9th. This week begins the new school year.

Apl. 16th. Owing to alterations requested in the ventilation, the Board decided to give two weeks holiday so the work might be completed.

Oct. 8th. Many children stayed away to attend the Fair at Evesham.

Dec. 2nd. Two window panes have been broken for more than twelve months. New panes should be put in without delay. (J. Adlard.)

1898.

Jan.14th. Many children were away on Monday afternoon in connection with the Church bells. (?)

Mar.18th. Report on Scripture Examination

The tone and order of the school are very creditable to Mr. McDonald and his staff.

.... oral answers displayed the readiness and intelligence which are the fruits of good teaching and training.

June 6th. H.M.I. Report

.... Reading and Recitation might certainly be improved if the children were trained to use the aspirate properly.

(ed. another reference to not pronouncing their "h").

Schedule of Grants

(ed. As noted previously the Grant paid to the school was based on the level of competence that the children reached in various subjects as shown below.

Principal Grant - 12/6d.

Discipline and Organisation - 1/6d.

Singing by Note - 1/-

Object Lessons and Grammar - 2/-

Geography - 2/-

Needlework - 1/-

Total Grant - £ 112.8s.0d.

Average Attendance - Boys 51.2

Girls 63.3

Total 115

June 24th. Pea picking having commenced a great many children have been irregular this week.

July 1st. Pea picking and strawberry gathering being in full operation there has been a further fall in attendance.

July 8th. The Board decided at their meeting to grant a fortnight's holiday for pea picking and c (?).

1898

Sept. 2nd. Hop picking commenced on Friday (2nd. inst.) at Wickhamford and nearly all the children from that district were absent from school on that day.

1899.

Feb. 17th. Received five new registers and a gallon of ink.

Mar. 24th. The school has not been properly warmed, the thermometers registering only 35 degrees at 9 o'clock.

Apl. 28th. The work has been interfered with considerably on account of lack of materials.

Jun. 2nd. H.M.I. Report

The tone and discipline of the Mixed Department are excellent.

Jun. 6th. Attention is directed to the overcrowded state of the classroom in which Standard II and III are being taught. This defect must be remedied at once.

F. Hartley (Sub-Inspector)

Jly. 26th. Increased accommodation is obviously desirable and in providing it, an alternative to the approaches of the main room should be secured so that there is no "crossing" during lessons.

(ed. Presumably this refers to the numbers of children moving about the corridors when moving from one class to the next.)

Oct. 13th. On Wednesday the school was without fires and the children suffered accordingly. This was owing to having no coal, the Board not having ordered any.

Oct. 27th. The school was visited on Friday a.m. by the Inspector, who brought the plans of the proposed alterations and examined them thoroughly.

Nov. 10th. Commenced Pupil Teacher's lessons at 8.a.m. for the convenience of one who comes from Aldington, conditionally upon fires being lighted in good time and rooms being thoroughly warmed.

Nov. 24th. No fires were lighted this week before 7.50.a.m.

Dec. 1st. The fires were lighted in good time on Monday only.

Dec. 8th. The fire lighting is very unsatisfactory.

Dec. 15th. It has been so cold this week and the fire lighting so unsatisfactory that morning lessons have been suspended for a time.

Extracts from the Log Book of Badsey Infants 1895 - 1900.

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Board School, Infants Department 1895.

Staff: Elizabeth Mason - Mistress.

Martha Mustoe - Candidate on Probation.

1895.

Nov.22nd. 63 present.

1896.

Jan 24th. Attendance still poor, the weather being bad for the little ones that come from a distance.

Jan.27th. Received lathes for sticklaying (?)

Feb.14th. Girls taken for Knitting Pin Drill 9.20 - 9.40.

Mar.13th. Received mats for paper plaiting, also 6 new Scripture pictures.

Mar.24th. Examination in Religious Knowledge.

Mar.27th. Half day holiday given to the Infants, the boys having their drawing examination.

Mar.31st. End of school. Examined Class I in Arithmetic, 4 failed to get one sum right out of three.

Apl.27th. Admitted 6 children, 25 children left the Infants Dept. for Standard I.

List of Object Lessons 1896 - 1897 (included):

1. A Tree
2. Post Office
3. Fowls

May 18th. Severely caned John F--- and William W--- for being late in the afternoon although they had their dinner at school.

H.M.I's Report, 21st April, 1896.

The Infants are evidently treated with much kindness and they are very well behaved. But they have been accustomed to answer simultaneously out of turn, individual performances being neglected ... the strict use of the initial "h" should have due attention. In the Infants Rooms better ventilation is essential, also fire guards and backs (reversible into desks) for the babies' gallery.

Jun. 8th. John H—— and John K—— have been removed back to the Infants from Standard I.

Jun. 22nd. Received boxes of blocks (2 doz) for tablet laying.

Jly. 3rd. The Board decided for the Infants Department to be carried on independently of the Mixed Department.

Jly. 22nd. Some of the best hemmers amongst the girls started hemming handkerchiefs so that they could show them at the Flower Show.

1896.

Jly. 31st. 1st Visit (Art. 84b)

None of the recommendations contained in H.M. Inspector's recent report have yet been carried out. Parents should be encouraged to send in their children at 3 years of age.

M.J. Barrington-Ward.

H.M.I.

Sep. 28th. School was re-opened after five weeks holiday, the holidays having been prolonged on account of the hop picking not being completed.

Oct. 7th. Class Registers were marked with red ink for those children who were on time and with black for the late children.

Dec. 11th. Owing to the evening being so dark and dull, the children have been obliged to leave off their regular lessons and have drill or recitation from 3.25. to 3.40.

1896

Dec.14th. The fireguards fixed round the fireplaces.

1897.

Jan. 4th. Babies were taken for their lessons in the large room, as there was not enough coal to have a fire in the Class Room.

Feb. 1st. Division I began writing in Copy Books using lead pencils.

Mar.22nd. Took Pupil Teacher for her lesson from 8 - 9 a.m.

Mar.31st. Average for year - 57.

Apl. 6th. Ellen P—— and Henry M—— delicate and backward children, although 6 years old, were retained in the Infants.

May. 3rd. The holidays were prolonged for a week, the workmen not having completed the ventilation.

N.M.'s Report, 1897.

"Better evidence of the children's ages should be forthcoming. A bell or door handle should be provided for each outer door as it is at present difficult to obtain access to the school during the hours of instruction."

Staff: E. Mason - (Certificated Mistress)
Martha Mustoe - (1st Year Pupil Teacher)
Ellen Sears - (Monitress)

May.10th. Ellen Sears commenced duties as Monitress, taking the Babies.

Jun. 4th. Many children absent through the week with Chicken Pox.

Jun.18th. So many absent with Chicken Pox (37 present), Mr. Knight thought it advisable to close at 12 o'clock.

Jly. 1st. The Board decided to close the schools for two weeks, hoping in the meantime the health of the children would improve.

1898.

Jan. 24th. The Pupil Teacher and Monitress left school at 3.15.p.m. to attend a service at Church. (Dedication of the Bells).

Diocesan Inspection. March, 18th.

General Report.

Mrs. Mason is to be congratulated upon her successful efforts to give simple explanations of the Lord's Prayer and other parts of the Lessons prepared to her little scholars who answered intelligently.

Mar. 30th. Severely caned two boys for stone throwing in the play-ground.

Apl. 1st. 26 children were sent up to the Mixed Department.

Apl. 7th. It was uncertain how long the holidays were to be as it was to be settled at a Board Meeting held in the evening.

May 18th. Edward W.—— a boy in Division I was this week put back into Division II as he had been away from school since the beginning of the school year, having been hurt badly on the head and the strain of the work seemed too much for him.

Oct. 14th. At 12 o'clock the school was closed for the afternoon, the school treat being held at 4 o'clock and a Magic Lantern in the evening.

1899.

Jan. 2nd. School re-opened after Christmas Holidays. Attendance was very poor owing to many of the children being sick with whooping cough.

1899

- Mar.31st. End of School Year. Average for the year 69.03.
24 children were drafted into the Mixed Department.
Ellen S---- resigned her duties as Monitress in the
school.
- Apl.10th. Annie Maria E---- and May Sylvester C---- commenced
duties as Monitresses in school.
- Apl.28th. A cupboard for use as a Museum was this week fixed
in the school.
- Jun.30th. The school was closed for two week holiday for pea
and strawberry picking.